

## ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE GAINING ACCEPTANCE

According to a recent column in *The Los Angeles Times*, one in three Americans seeks alternative health care each year, to the tune of US\$13.7 billion. A whopping US\$10.3 billion was paid by consumers out of pocket without reimbursement by insurance providers, according to a recent study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

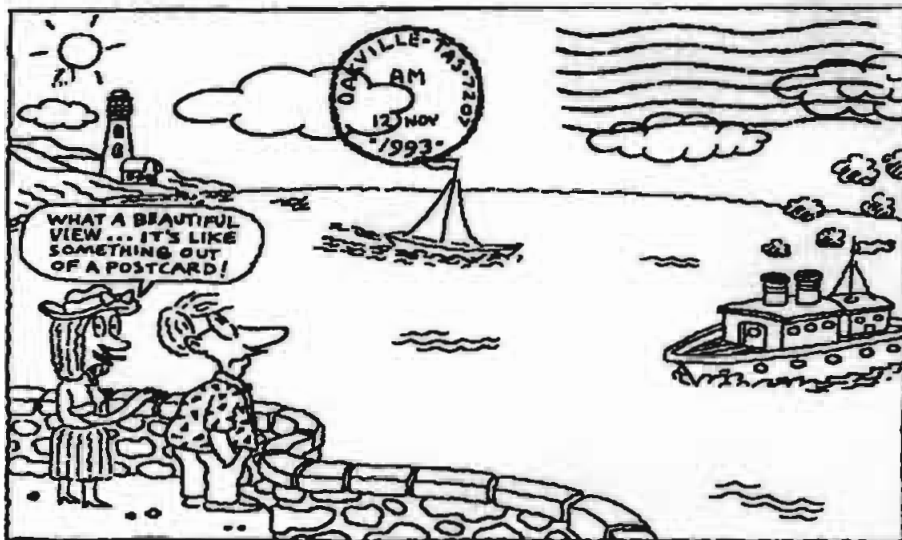
These 'unconventional therapies', like acupuncture, naturopathy, herbs and massage, are used by people for chronic, not life-threatening illnesses.

Eighty-three per cent had previously sought treatment from a medical doctor.

American Western Life Insurance Co. based in Foster City, California, recently began offering coverage for alternative medical treatment. This is the first such insurance policy in the nation, but because of insurance industry regulations is presently available only to consumers in California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

To address the lack of scientific studies, the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Office of Alternative Medicine plans to fund 20 preliminary research studies of unorthodox cures such as the use of shark cartilage to treat cancer, and bee pollen in treating allergies.

(Source: *Wildfire Magazine*, Winter 1993)



## SPANISH INVESTIGATION REVEALS GULF WAR BRIBES

While conducting a detailed examination of financial records at Grupo Torras, a major holding corporation for Kuwaiti investments in Europe, Spanish authorities found hidden internal reports on the conduits used to pass around multimillion-dollar payoffs among top government figures in Washington and other Western capitals.

Although he has ordered the newly discovered documents sealed, Spain's Attorney General, Eligio Hernandez, is under increasing pressure in parliament where opposition party leaders want to know whether any Spanish government officials were among the recipients of

Kuwait's covert subsidies.

It is claimed that the ruling family of Kuwait handed out "at least US\$300 million [in] political payments"—that is, bribes to US and European leaders in order to enlist their support for the military intervention against Iraq now known as *Operation Desert Storm*.

The documentation unearthed by Spanish investigators has revealed that the European branch offices of two major US money institutions, Chemical Bank and Bankers Trust Corporation, were the main conduits for the manipulation of Kuwait's overseas funds.

According to Spanish investigative journalist Franconero Belmonte, "the Spanish government has imposed a strict cover-up on its probe of Kuwait influence-buying".

"In February it secretly sent two high-ranking officials to Washington to discuss how the scandal can be smothered without causing 'structural damage' to NATO."

(Source: *The Spotlight*, 28 March 1994)

## TOBACCO COMPANY SUPPRESSES RESEARCH

A leading tobacco company in the US knew in 1983 from its own research that nicotine is highly addictive. But the company blocked publication of a paper based on the research, setting back other scientists in the field at least six years, according to a US Congressman conducting hearings into the addictiveness of nicotine.

Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, has released a draft of the paper which was submitted to the journal *Psychopharmacology*, but then withdrawn by its author, Victor DeNoble, at the insistence of Philip Morris, the tobacco company which employed him.

This is the latest in the battle by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to have tobacco classified as an addictive drug.

As one veteran FDA observer commented recently, "It looks like the pharmaceutical drug companies are going for the market currently held by the tobacco companies!"

This could certainly be the case. If the FDA is successful in classifying nicotine as an addictive drug, tobacco companies may end up handing over their products to pharmaceutical drug companies to sell under prescription.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 9 April 1994)

## FDA PRIORITIES

Following are four quotes which clearly indicate that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is more concerned with protecting certain drug companies' profits, rather than looking out for the interests of the American people.

• "It has become fashionable in some quarters to argue that women ought to be able to make [breast implant] decisions of their own. If members of our society were empowered to make their own decisions about the entire range of products for which the FDA has responsibility, however, the whole rationale for the agency would cease to exist."

(Dr David Kessler, FDA Commissioner, reported from *The New England Journal of Medicine*, in *The Wall Street Journal*, 24 June 1992.)

• "Pay careful attention to what is happening [with dietary supplements] in the legislative arena ... if these efforts are successful, there could be created a class of products to compete with approved drugs that are subject to less regulation than approved drugs ... the establishment of a separate regulatory category for supplements could undercut exclusivity rights enjoyed by the holders of approved drug applications."

(David Adams, FDA Deputy Commissioner for Policy, before the Drug Information Association Annual General Meeting, 12 July 1993.)

• "...The task force considered many issues in its deliberations including: to ensure the existence of dietary supplements on the market does not act as a disincentive for drug development..."

## VACCINE REACTION REPORTS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

More than 17,000 adverse events following vaccination were reported to the FDA to have occurred in the US in a 20-month period ending in July 1992, including more than 2,000 serious reports and 360 deaths.

However because the FDA estimates that only 10% of doctors report adverse effects in the US, the real numbers could be as high as 170,000 adverse events including 20,000 serious injuries and 3,600 deaths associated with vaccinations.

If you think the FDA is extravagant by multiplying the reported figure by a factor of 10 times to arrive at more realistic figures, then consider that Connaught Laboratories, a vaccine manufacturer, estimates a 50-fold under-reporting of adverse events!

That implies 850,000 adverse events, including 100,000 serious injuries and 18,000 deaths associated with vaccinations over one 20-month period!

(Source: *NVIC News (US)*, October 1993)

(*FDA Dietary Supplement Task Force Report*, released 15 June 1993.)

• "The American public does not have the knowledge to make wise health care decisions... FDA is the arbiter of truth... Trust us. We will tell you what's good for you."

(Dr David Kessler, FDA Commissioner, speaking on the *Larry King Live* television show, as reported in *Well Being Journal*, March-April 1994, and *The Leading Edge*, March 1994.)

## JAPAN BANS MEASLES-MUMPS-RUBELLA VACCINE

The Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare decided in April 1993 to discontinue the use of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine because of various problems associated with it.

One of the interesting effects of this vaccine ban for children under two years of age is that cot deaths appear to have declined enormously since the ban.

(Source: *What Doctors Don't Tell You (UK)*, vol. 4, no. 9, 1993)

## MYSTERY METEOR STRIKES EARTH

On 1st February the Earth's atmosphere was penetrated by an object so large that it was detected by six US spy satellites and, according to some reports, led to President Clinton being woken by his Defence staff.

The incident, which happened over the western Pacific, is being greeted with both excitement and concern by astronomers. They are delighted at the speed with which the Pentagon has decided to release the satellite data, but they are concerned that,

despite their own growing awareness of the frequency of cosmic visitors, military advisers still seem unable to discriminate between incoming meteorites and nuclear explosions.

Satellite data released so far has revealed that the object, presumably a meteor, turned into a glowing fireball as it entered the atmosphere, becoming almost as bright as the Sun and releasing about 10 terajoules of luminous energy in about one second.

The aerodynamic stresses caused by its entry into the atmosphere at an estimated speed of 72,000 kilometres per hour, caused it to explode about 20 kilometres above the sea, near the Pacific island of Tokelau.

Researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratories in New Mexico estimate that the meteor had an energy equivalent to a 100-kilotonne blast, and a mass of well over 1000 tonnes.

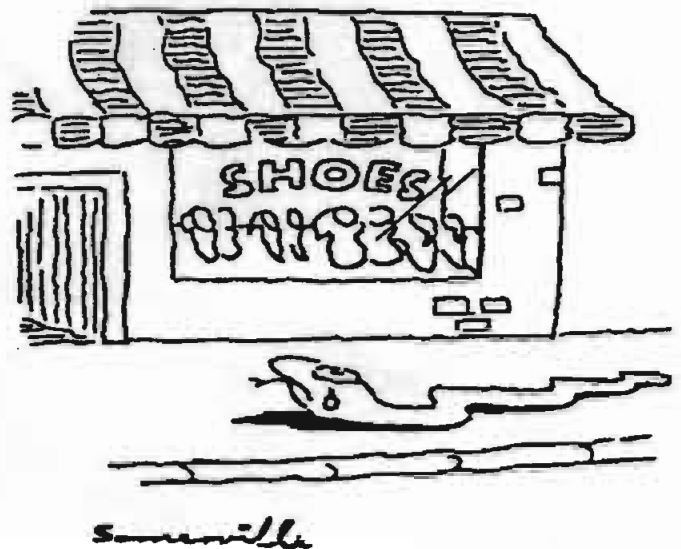
(Source: *New Scientist*, 2 April 1994)

## SHADES OF THE PHOTON BELT

In NEXUS 2/2 we reprinted a controversial article about something called a Photon Belt. Two years later this article had done the rounds of America's new age and channelling networks and had been regurgitated in a barely recognisable 'end of the world' scenario which caused all sorts of hysteria, and even got mentioned on national TV shows across the US and Australia.

Well, the Photon Belt believers who are still waiting may be interested in this piece of information.

Victor Clube from the University of Oxford is suggesting that we are living in the aftermath of the breakup of a giant



comet in the inner solar system. He suggests that this event may have been associated with the most recent ice age, which began about 100,000 years ago.

According to Clube, it produced a stream of material that orbits the Sun and is linked with the Taurid meteor stream, which peaks around 30th June in daylight hours but is visible as 'shooting stars' in the night skies of November each year.

Clube calculates that the Earth passes through the thickest part of this belt of debris every 3,000 years.

This happened most recently in 500 AD and, before that, in 2,500 BC.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 26 March 1994)

## MOBILE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

There recently appeared on Australian television a documentary on the wonders of hidden video cameras.

While the program did show several positive examples of hidden videos catching crooks and corrupt politicians in the act, it wound up the show by saying, in effect, that video surveillance cameras are good, and only those with something to hide need worry about them.

In other words, this was a blatant grab at convincing gullible TV watchers that hidden video surveillance cameras are good for them.

Well, the next step in video surveillance has arrived.

An Australian company, Trafalgar Security, has developed what it believes is

the world's first robot security camera, able to roam, without being seen, about buildings, quietly watching staff and others at work.

Known as Tracam, it consists of a colour television camera that runs at up to 8 km per hour on a rail inside a dark perspex tunnel fixed to the ceiling.

Although the camera can see through the perspex, it is almost impossible for anyone to see into the tunnel.

By adding infrared sensors, the robot camera could follow people anywhere within a building.

Plus, an electronic card which can be attached to visitor passes is under development. The card would enable the camera to find and pursue a particular person anywhere in a large office block or warehouse.

About 80 Tracam systems are operating around the world. The first customer, British Post, began installing Tracam in 1992.

It is suggested that employers could use the mobile cameras to observe staff relationships, who people talked to, and even monitor body language.

(Source: *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 February 1994)

## PROTECTING GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE PUBLIC

One of the more remarkable documents to emerge from the Energy Department's openness initiative is a 1947 Atomic Energy Commission memorandum on the classification of human radiation experiments. It states:

"It is desired that no document be released which refers to experiment with humans and might have adverse effect on public opinion or result in legal suits. Documents covering such work should be classified secret."

Thus the true enemy is identified: public opinion. And the means to defeat the enemy? Classification!

(Source: *Secrecy & Government Bulletin*, #33, March 1994)

## DRUGS COMPANIES ARE BRIBING DOCTORS

A doctor who accepts money from a drug company to perform research or to attend or speak at a symposium is 19 times more likely to request a drug manufactured by that company than doctors who have not had contact with that company.

In a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, two researchers, Mary-Margaret Chren and Seth Landefeld of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, reveal that doctors who tried to add to their hospital's stock were those with the strongest links to drug companies.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 12 March 1994)

## BIG BROTHER FEARS OVER HI-TECH POLICE

The New Zealand Police force is proposing to buy a multi-million-dollar supercomputer which will give it the world's most sophisticated intelligence system.

If approved, the national Integrated Crime Information System (INCIS) will lead the world.

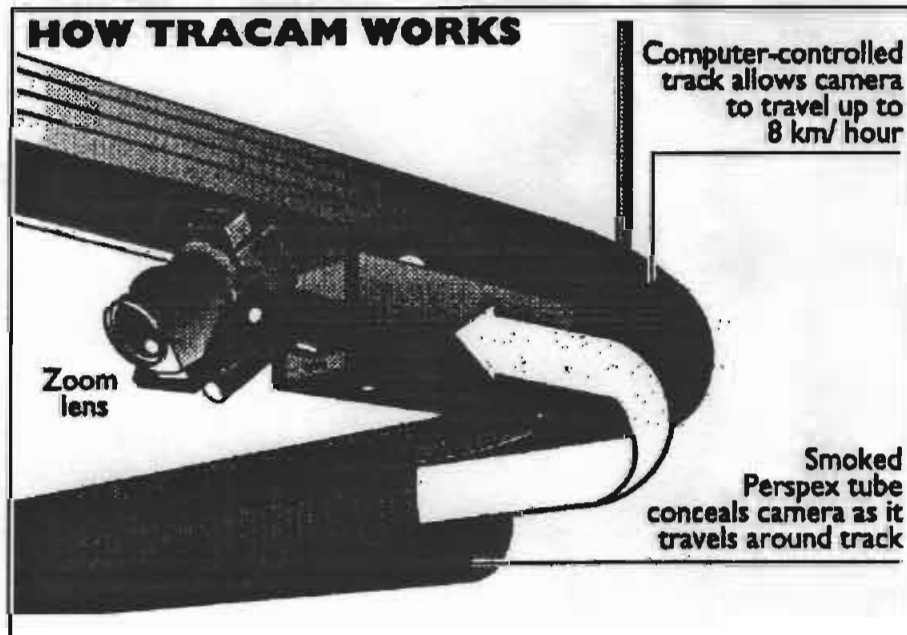
The proposed INCIS system, estimated to be worth around NZ\$80 million, is even more powerful than one being installed by New South Wales Police in Australia.

The Australian system is able to cross-reference names, places and dates, and identify "persons of interest" in a street or locality where a crime has been committed.

"Persons of interest" include anyone who has a criminal history, a warrant out against them, is the subject of an intelligence report or a domestic violence order, holds a gun licence, has a history of mental illness, is a crime victim or a crime suspect.

Basically, this means that when the NSW police visit a crime scene, they can flash up on their computer everyone living in that district who is on their already substantially cross-referenced files.

(Source: *Sunday Star Times (NZ)*, 10 April 1994)



## THE MORE FLUORIDE, THE MORE CAVITIES!

Fluoride is added to municipal drinking water supplies to (supposedly) prevent caries in young children. However, a University of Arizona study, reported in the 27 July 1992 *Chemical & Engineering News*, found that "the more fluoride a child drank, the more cavities appeared in the teeth".

(Source: *Townsend Letter for Doctors*, April 1994)

## IS CLINTON'S HEALTH PLAN A DE FACTO ID SYSTEM?

Several years ago in Australia we were presented with the Australia Card, an ID card that was rejected by the masses. We all went off to bed dutifully thinking that our ID card had been nailed. Not so!

Australia has a de facto ID system, and the Medicare health care card we carry is an essential part of it.

Now it seems that the same pattern is being adopted in overseas countries.

The new Clinton proposal for the US health care system will issue every American with a Health Security card.

Given the information that each card would carry, and the fact that virtually every single US citizen will be issued one, it is not surprising that US civil rights groups are voicing concern at possible misuse of the system.

The Health Security card in conjunction with the US Social Security number is virtually a complete ID/surveillance system. In Australia it is the Medicare card in conjunction with the tax file number.

(Source: *Scientific American*, February 1994)

## COMET FRAGMENTS TO COLLIDE WITH JUPITER IN JULY

It is being described as the solar system's biggest traffic accident for many years: Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 has split into 21 fragments which are due to collide with Jupiter between 16 and 22 July this year.

The 21 pieces are due to drill into the frozen gas giant at a speed of 216,000 km/hr and each piece will yield an explosion of energy equal to 10 million Hiroshima atom bombs as it hits!

The US government has two spacecraft, *Voyager 2* and *Galileo*, in the vicinity, timed to observe this unusual event.

(Source: *The Australian*, 24 February 1994)

## DENTAL AMALGAM: ON THE WAY OUT?

Europe's largest manufacturer of amalgam and a major supplier of mercury for the US has recently announced that it is ceasing production. The official reason given for this was a "fall in demand" but a more likely one could have been a proposed 1995 European law, which will reverse the present situation where the injured has to prove harm from a substance. Under the new law, the manufacturer will have to prove that harm could not be possible. Degussa follows Johnson and Johnson who decided to sell off their Dispensalloy amalgam branch last year. Both companies would be well aware of the probable future litigation.

Last July, the Californian Environmental Law Foundation, through the State Attorney, initiated prosecution proceedings against the manufacturers and distributors of amalgam. Under Proposition 65 it is an offence to supply a substance that can cause cancer or birth defects without providing a warning, and in 1991 all mercury compounds were included as one of these substances. From 24th September 1991, daily penalties of US\$2,500 were imposed on the defendants, and in November, Jeneric-Pentron, a major US manufacturer of amalgam, became the first to acknowledge breaching this Californian State law. The company ordered all dental surgeries using their product to place warning notices on their waiting room walls informing the public that mercury from amalgam can cause birth defects. The other companies and the ADA have appealed the court finding

and thus delay compliance. Five other US states are now initiating similar laws.

On 15th December 1993, T. Donovan, Associate Professor at the USC School of Dentistry, and Chairman of the ADA's Council on Dental Materials, was interviewed by *The Los Angeles Times* regarding the Californian litigation. According to the paper, he stated that it was absolutely preposterous that mercury from amalgam could cause any harm. He stated that there was not a single shred of evidence in any peer-reviewed scientific journal of any detrimental effect, including on unborn children. The only exception was the rare allergic reaction.

However, examination of the 1989 *Literature Review on Biocompatibility of Dental Amalgam*, compiled by the Council on Dental Research and Developments of the Californian Dental Association, reveals 319 published references to adverse effects from mercury. Donovan's name was listed as being on the six-member committee that produced this 1989 *Review*. These 319 references were somehow missing from the next (1991) *Review*, as was Donovan's name. His 1993 public statements could, however, be doing untold harm by giving the public and dentists the impression that amalgam was safe.

Nobody with any intelligence would accept the statement that the only people adversely affected by arsenic are those who are allergic to it. Adverse effects occur following an accumulative poisoning which can take months or years to appear. Mercury is more neurotoxic than arsenic and can accumulate in identical fashion.

(Source: *Healthy Options*, April-May '94)

